

THE YOUNG WORKER

An Organ of the Militant Young Workers

Published twice a month at 1113 W. Washington Blvd. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. The Young Workers League of America, publishers. "Entered as second-class matter Sept. 17, 1922, at the postoffice at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

VOL. IV. NO. 1.

CHICAGO, ILL., JANUARY 1, 1925

THE YOUNG WORKER
Stands For
Unionizing the Youth!
Equal Pay for Equal Work for
Young and Old!
A 6-Hour Day, 5-Day Week for
Young Workers!
Abolition of Child Labor!
A Fight Against Capitalist
Militarism!
A Fight Against the Boss Class!
The Workers' Republic!

PRICE 5 CENT

The Weekly Will Come Out March 1st

THE national executive committee of the Young Workers League has decided that the date of publication of the first issue of the Weekly Young Worker shall be changed to March 1st, 1924. This change was decided upon because of the slowness of many of the leagues in sending in their quotas for the drive. We want to print the Weekly with an

assurance that we shall not have to suspend it, as other revolutionary papers have been forced to do because of insufficient finances. In order to insure the continued publication of the Weekly it is necessary that we have on hand the initiated fund of \$2,000. This sum has not yet been raised and it is the DUTY of every unit of the league to intensify its work in the drive.

FRIENDS AND SHOP MATES SHOULD BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE COLLECTION LISTS OF THE YOUNG WORKER.

EVERY MEETING OF THE LEAGUE, WHETHER BRANCH MEETING OR MASS MEETING, SHOULD TAKE UP PART OF ITS TIME WITH TAKING UP THE QUESTION OF THE WEEKLY. COLLECTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR THE FUND. SUBSCRIPTIONS SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN UP.

PREPARATIONS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE FOR UNPRECEDENTEDLY SUCCESSFUL LIEBKNECHT DAY DEMONSTRATIONS. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE FOR THE ENTIRE PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE YOUNG WORKER.

PUT YOUR SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL! MAKE THE MONEY ROLL IN!

EVERY COMRADE TO HIS TASK! THE WEEKLY YOUNG WORKER, BY MARCH 1ST, 1924!

Los Angeles Goes REACTIONARIES Three Times Over HIT AT JUNIORS Its Weekly Quota

THREE times above its quota! One hundred and fifty dollars as the first instalment of its share of the drive, when the quota set was fifty dollars! Is there another unit of our league that can boast of the same success? Is there another branch that can equal Los Angeles?

The Los Angeles league has just sent in a check for \$150 as the big "drop in the bucket" for their share of the drive for the Weekly Young Worker.

And this is not all! Comrade Esther Schneiderman, treasurer of the league, writes: "...the league is very proud to forward a check amounting to one hundred and fifty dollars as its share toward the Weekly Young Worker campaign. This does not include the amount collected by our members on the donation lists. These lists are to be turned in at our meeting tomorrow night, and the returns will be sent into the national office promptly. We are certainly pleased that our efforts in the Weekly Young Worker campaign have not been in vain, and can assure you that the success we have met with shall not slackened our pace along this line one bit."

That's the spirit that is building rapidly towards the Weekly Young Worker! Who's next?

WANTS SCHOOLS MILLIONS MADE TO MAKE ROBOTS IN CHILD WORK

REACTIONARY RAG OUT FOR FRANK ANTI-COMMUNIST EDUCATION

BOURGEOIS BRATS ARE SAFE 250 PER CENT PROFIT MADE

CLEVELAND.—Open advocacy of putting the school plant to work to turn out robots in the interest of big business is finding voice in Cleveland industrial circles and thru the capitalist press.

The slogan of the industrial captains of Cleveland is expressed by a leading editorial on the front page of this city's most reactionary newspaper, The Times-Commercial.

"It is most essential to bring home to the minds of our people generally that a reputation for being the center of radical thought is a most destructive factor in the life of a community. How can we best instill this fact into the minds of our people? Only by educational methods. We cannot have a sane state of public opinion unless the daily teachings that reach the homes thru the school children and thru the press are of a character to make for an understanding of the fact that legitimate business must not only be protected but fostered if we would enjoy to the full the blessings of modern civilization."

This organ of reaction blandly warns big business that if the school children are "unwillingly taught they will adopt policies destructive of their own welfare and hurtful to legitimate business."

Eighty per cent of the children in the schools of our large cities are workers' children. The children of wealthy parents are usually sent to private schools, where their education is carefully steered into reactionary channels.

Wages can never keep pace with the cost of living. They never have and they never will so long as capitalism endures.

A humble slave I despise; a rebellious slave I respect.—Wendell Phillips.

A 'Weekly' by the First

FRISCO COPS PULL OFF BONER IN ARRESTING WOBBLIES 21 I. W. W. ARE PINCHED IN RAID FOR LEAFLET OF Y. W. L.

HIT "EDUCATION" WEEK

SAN FRANCISCO.—Descending upon the headquarters of the Industrial Workers of the World, the Frisco police arrested twenty-one members of the organization on the charge of having distributed leaflets in the schools, calling for soviets.

An investigation would have proved even to the morons directing the police department that the wobblies had absolutely nothing to do with the circulation of the leaflet among the school children. The leaflet was printed in Chicago by the Workers Party and circulated by the local Young Workers League, junior groups, with the assistance of comrades of the Workers Party.

Scaring 'Em. The Minneapolis Journal carried a prominent front page article for two days with such scare headlines as "Baby Reds Want to Be Dictators in Public Schools," and "Communists Dare Webster to Uproot Red Units in Schools."

The bourgeois gentlemen were particularly scared at the prospect of the organization of students councils, by the junior groups, so that the proletarian children could discuss the policies and activities of the schools and be the only bodies to determine reprimands and punishments.

Members of the Minneapolis board of education, following the publicity in the press, are investigating the possibility of having The Young Comrade and the other material of the junior section of the Young Workers League barred from the mails as treasonable.

The junior groups feel that in response to this new offensive of reaction in the schools that they will have to consolidate their forces more than ever. They will have to draw more and more children into the junior groups and set to work in earnest to establish working class parents' councils for the schools of the Twin Cities. The board of education will go easy when it is confronted with the combined strength of the proletarian children and their parents.

The gains of these millionaires for the year ending Feb. 28, 1925, will run over \$13,000,000, equivalent to 80 per cent on the common stock, according to the estimate of the Wall Street Journal based on the year's production and prices.

Huge Profits. The company's profits for the last eight years total \$56,722,196 after deduction of all losses, interest, depreciation and taxes. This has meant over 250 per cent to the common stockholders.

The children's bureau, U. S. department of labor, tells of the conditions underlying these profits. Contract labor, including mothers and little children, does the work. The bureau says: "Both women and children are employed at the work and the possibility of turning even young children into wage earners is one of the inducements for taking the contract which is especially strong in the case of the head of a large family."

Work Under Ten.

One-fourth of the children workers were found to be under 10 years of age while only from one-sixth to one-fifth were over 14.

Verily, the way of the revolution is strewn with thorns, but that of the compromiser and renegade is dotted with the skins of over-ripe bananas.—T. J. O'Flaherty.

The hand that edits the dailies is the hand that dopes the boobs.

NUCLEUS FORMED IN MILL STRIKE

YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE IN ACTIVE SUPPORT OF TEXTILE SLAVES

MIDDLEBORO STRIKE SCENE

MIDDLEBORO, Mass.—Activitv among the young strikers, who are out together with their adult brothers in a textile walk-out here, is what is being carried out by the Young Workers League.

Jim Reid, popular leader of the textile workers of this district and former national president of the National Union of Textile Workers of America, has been addressing the workers together with Barney Mass, national organizer of the Young Workers League.

Organic Nucleus. With the aid of young comrades from the Providence League, Comrade Mass successfully appealed to the young strikers to join the Young Workers League and has organized about 25 of them into a nucleus of the organization.

Special slogans were put forth by the league for the young strikers and Comrade Mass appealed to the youth to join the league on that basis. Comrade Nellie Frabulos and Ralph Kominsky, of the Providence League, have been helping the strikers in their fight against the extension of the two-loom system, strikes which are occurring all thru the new England textile district.

In his tour thru the district Comrade Mass, who is also industrial organizer of the league, pointed out the necessity of the young Communists entering into every one of the strikes and rallying the young workers into nuclei on the basis of the special youth demands of the league.

They have learned to understand and assimilate the experiences of the recent revolutionary fight in its true significance, in the spirit of Lenin's doctrines. History is of special importance to us because it is the arsenal from which we shall obtain our weapons for the coming fight. From wrong representation of the past history of our party and wrong doctrines extracted from past experience, false conclusion as to the present and future may and will inevitably ensue. The more important the epoch concerned, the greater will be the importance of a right, i. e. Bolshevik interpretation of this period.

In the "Lessons of October," which forms the introduction to Comrade Trotsky's recently published book "1917," he, in our opinion, approaches one of the most important facts in the history of the party, the October Revolution, from a wrong and politically extremely dangerous point of view. The "Lessons of October," however, are, on the one hand, only a continuation of a whole chain of mistakes and misrepresentations which accompany the expression of other stages of the fight in a series of previous books, articles and speeches of Comrade Trotsky. On the other hand, Comrade Trotsky in his last work deals with this question, not only from its historical side, but he develops as regards the questions of the international Communist movement, his political program which differs essentially from the point of view of the

leading personalities of the party and from the last Congress of the International. For this reason the Russian Leninist Communist Youth League cannot leave Comrade Trotsky's statements unchallenged, and considers it its duty to declare its position with regard to it.

It is our custom to regard respect for the party and sacrifice for the party—for both for the party as a whole and the party as a body of combatants—as the fundamental duty of every Bolshevik. Lenin, whose name our League is proud to bear, and the party are for us identical. Lenin never placed himself above the party. He marched before it. He saw further than anyone. But then, Lenin was the leader of the party, its first and best soldier, its standard bearer, Lenin cannot be separated from the party, nor the party from Lenin.

In this spirit the Communist Youth League was trained under Lenin's leadership. That is why we must raise a protest against the misrepresentation of the Bolshevik Party and its part in the October revolution which is contained in Comrade Trotsky's "Lessons of October."

The Bolshevik Party, the chief factor in the October Revolution, is entirely absent from the picture which Comrade Trotsky draws. Where do we find the Central Committee, which led the fight against Kornilov and which prepared and organized the insurrection? Where do we find the

(Continued on Page 2.)

Weeks Asks Increase In Army; Preparing For Next Boss' War

WASHINGTON.—An increase of 13,000 officers and 150,000 men in the statutory strength of the regular army is contemplated in projects mentioned by Secretary of War Weeks, in his annual report as being "held in abeyance by the shortage of military personnel." The army now numbers about 12,000 officers and 118,750 men. The additional force would be distributed between the air service, field and coast artillery, infantry, engineers and signal troops.

The capitalists are preparing for their next war in which the young workers will lay down their lives for the profits of their bosses. What are the young workers going to do?

WESTINGHOUSE PLANT EXPOSED

PITTSBURGH SLAVE JOINT CONDITIONS BARED BY LEAGUE

Y. W. L. CALLS FOR MEMBERS

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company like all other companies are organized to make profits for a few men who own and control the machinery and equipment.

The only reason the non-working owners of the Westinghouse permit the shop to run is to make as much profit as possible for themselves. Hence the slogan of the company to drive, drive—drive the men to the limit.

From R. L. Wilson down to the lowest gang boss, the slogan to the workers is higher production, no loafing. The slogan of higher wages or better conditions never enters the minds of these lackeys.

Clever Methods Used.

In days of old the cursing, bulldozing methods were used to force the workers to work harder but today the boss uses more clever methods to drive the workers. The crushing foreman only antagonized the men and made fighters of them but today very clever means are used to drive the workers so that he cannot realize he is being driven.

First of all the company makes the workers feel it is doing every thing in its power to help them—yes, it does everything but gives them higher wages to better their standard of living. It has saving accounts, company stores, cafeteria, clubs, insurance policies, shop committees, relief department, veteran associations, etc. These agencies are used very cleverly to make the men in the shop think that the company is a huge philanthropic organization, primarily organized for the benefit of the workers. If there are still any workers left who feel that the company is not in business for their (the workers) benefit, then they have a very efficient police force, who can handle a club in a very clever fashion or better still it is a very simple task to fire those who are discontented.

While there are many times systems of ways of computing the pay of the men, the latest piece of camouflage is the standard time system. Under this system workers who do equal work are supposed to get equal pay, yet in practice this is a myth. New men eager to hold their jobs and old men who if discharged cannot find other work are often discriminated against and paid lower rates. The stop watch is the instrument used in timing the workers. The most vicious system is the group system which practically eliminates the assistant foreman. The earnings of the members of the group are equally divided and each member of the group naturally sees to it that the other members speed up and do equal work. It is a common sight to see girls working at lunch hour. Such is (Continued on Page 4.)

Just a Spark.

It needs only such an outburst as that which is now taking place in the Balkans to set the world afire. The last war began in that manner, and there is every likelihood that the next one will begin in a similar manner.

The workers of the world must prepare in order to halt the imperialist moves of the masters who now rule by over throwing the capitalist system which is the producer not only of exploitation and misery, but also of war and murder.

Charity is not designed to help the poor, but to perpetuate the powers of the rich.

For a Leninist League!

NEW WORLD WAR IN BALKAN ROW

ALBANIA-SERBIA SQUABBLE MAY LEAD TO ANOTHER WORLD SLAUGHTER

YOUNG WORKERS THREATENED

LONDON.—The beginnings of a new world capitalist war is predicted here freely from the events now taking place in the Balkans.

Albania has ordered a general mobilization of its military forces to repel a so-called invasion from Serbia. Italy has warned Serbia that she will not permit the Jugo-Slavs to invade Albania, and will interfere in any such move.

Italy has her own interests in the revolt since the Adriatic has always been one of its desires. She is sending warships to Durazzo and Valona, Albanian ports.

In the meantime the rival magnates of America and Great Britain are not wasting any time. They have both been using their time to gain oil concessions in the various Balkan countries, as well as elsewhere.

Like Last War.

Political correspondents recall that the last world war began over a trifling incident, such as the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, also in the Balkans and that from this incident, the entire world was thrown into the throes of war. It was only later that the bourgeois writers summed up enough guts to write the truth about the war, that is, that it was purely a war of the capitalist nations for the revision of the world on a better basis for themselves. The rivalry of Germany and Great Britain was the cause of the last war and the rivalry of England and the United States will probably be the basis of the next world war.

The Dawes plan, which attempts to establish American capitalists' hegemony over Europe will inevitably lead to the development of antagonism with England, which is today the next powerful country in the world. This antagonism growing ever sharper is slowly forming the basis for a more terrible world war than the last one.

Both nations are preparing for it. The increases in the army and navies of both countries, as well as those of other lands, is merely a sign of the times. Feverish preparations are being made for war. In the United States, even the official labor movement, always a tool of imperialism, has now come out brazenly as the co-worker, together with the financial capitalists, for imperialist At the last convention of the American Federation of Labor at El Paso, Gompers put thru a proposal, which, if the scoundrel remained alive to carry thru, would have made him virtually the assistant of the secretary of war in mobilizing the workers like sheep for the next capitalist slaughter. Even the militaristic citizens' military training camps were endorsed.

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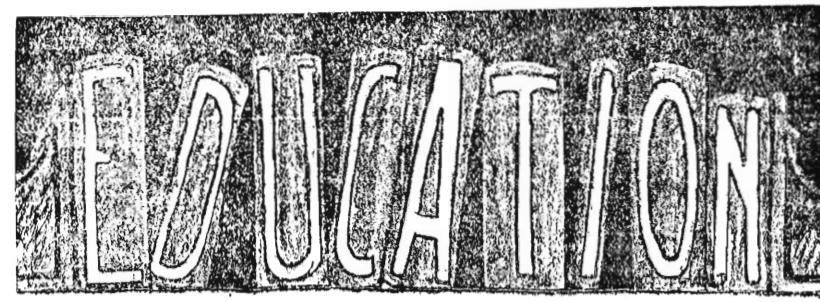
Charity is not designed to help the poor, but to perpetuate the powers of the rich.

For a Leninist League!

YOU WILL FIND IT IN THE VERY NEXT ISSUE!

Because of the lack of space in this issue, due to having to publish certain material to be found in these pages, we are unable to print the details of the drive up to date for the Weekly Young Worker cannot be published in this issue. In the next issue, we will give the details of the campaign for the Weekly, including the number of new pledge cards and money collected by the various leagues and comrades.

Watch for it and send in your money in order to get your material printed. Stand at the head of the leagues that are working for the Weekly!



THE great weapon of the class struggle is communist theory. In this is included the experiences of the working class in its struggle for power. Communist theory grows with every new experience, with every success and failure in that struggle. To learn communist theory outside of the struggle is like learning to swim on the dry sands of the shore. Learned from the book," Communism becomes only an isolated bit of knowledge—in the struggle, it becomes a powerful weapon because with it is combined the will to revolutionary action. The book students of communism,—“Bible students,” Lenin called them—become sectarians, not fighting communists. Marxism as an academic study is no longer a weapon; it is “a wooden blade which will not cut.”

The social democrats approach the study of Marxism as a sectarian belief, not as a weapon of the class struggle. It becomes merely a belief that a revolution will occur if we wait long enough. To think of the Revolution as something actually to be accomplished is horrifying. It is much easier and so much more comfortable to believe than to do. Such a conception of communism is consistent with every form of reformism and opportunism. The “bible students” easily become supporters of the capitalist system in a time of crisis, as did Spargo, Hillquit, Noske and Scheideman.

The Young Communist International changed the old motto from “Thru Knowledge to Power” to the slogan “Thru Action to Knowledge.” At its last convention our own communist youth organization, the Young Workers League, adopted the slogan “Education Thru Active Participation in the Class Struggle.” Since that time we have learned to enter actually into the struggle of the young workers of this country.

Our N. E. C. has decided to begin the study of our political minimum thru a course of eight lessons to be published in the YOUNG WORKER. There will be one lesson in each issue for a period of four months as follows:

1. Youth under Capitalism.

This will tell about the conditions under the present society, the oppression of the workers, and the inequalities in wealth between the capitalists and the workers.

2. Evolution of Society.

The present system is not very old. Other kinds of societies have existed before capitalism. They have been overthrown as capitalism will overthrown.

3. Economic Characteristics of Capitalist Society.

The worker is robbed thru the operation of economic laws which every worker should understand.

The capitalist does not get rich by means of his brains or his genius, but by the natural workings of the present system.

4. The Class Struggle and Its Forms.

This lesson will take up the division of society into classes and the battles between the classes.

5. Working Class Organizations.

This will include a detailed explanation of unions, parties, nuclei, shop councils, fractions, and soviets.

6. The Road to Power and the Communist Society.

How the working class gained power in Russia, and how we expect it to do so in other countries, will be discussed. And this will naturally lead to the intriguing subject of the communist society toward which we are striving.

7. The Young Workers League—Its Role and Function.

This lesson will be of especial interest to all of our comrades. In it we will take up the place of the league in the communist movement and the specific aims of our organization.

8. The Young Workers League—Its Tactics and Functions.

In this issue of the series will be found how the league intends to accomplish its aims. The immediate tasks of the league in the light of its historic mission will be included.

With every lesson we shall also publish lists of books for further study on related subjects. Questions on the subject matter will also be found in each issue, in order that organized and definite study may be made more practical.

We cannot over-emphasize the necessity of EVERY member of the league following and studying these lessons closely. Branches and nuclei are urged to form classes on the basis of this series of lessons. Where it will be found impossible to form classes some part of the regular time of each branch or nucleus meeting should be devoted to a review of the lessons published. Remember that it is those who are slaves and know not that they are slaves upon whom capitalism depends for its continued existence.

The workers feed the world; the workers clothe the world; the workers are the world; the workers demand the world.—Stanley J. Clarke.

When wars do come, they fall upon the many, the producing class, who are the sufferers.—General Grant.

The greatest discovery of my life is that the men who do the work never get rich.—Andrew Carnegie.

Against Trotsky!

(Continued from page 1)

Petrograd Committee. Where are the individual sections of Petrograd? Where are the agitation, the organizing work, the activity in the factories and the military units? Where is the organization of Moscow? Where do we find the masses who grouped themselves around Lenin and supported him without doubt or hesitation? All this has simply no existence for him, or is only mentioned in the third place. Instead of the party he always places the personalities of the leaders in the foreground.

On the contrary, all the mistakes which were made by the closest disciples of Lenin during the eight months of the revolution, are recalled to our memory and represented in close columns so as to give the impression of the existence of a right fraction opposed to Lenin.

On the other hand, the facts which are calculated to deprecate the party in the eyes of the reader who did not personally experience “October,” and is not sufficiently well up in its written history, are underlined and brought into relief. The majority of the Bolshevik fraction took up a wrong position at the Democratic Conference in 1917 when it voted for a participation in the preliminary Parliament. Comrade Trotsky writes: “The fraction at the Democratic Conference, 100 persons strong, was at this period in no way distinguished from the party.” Why did Comrade Trotsky have to identify the fraction with the party? This is contrary to the truth, for the congress of the party, which alone had the right to speak in the name of the party (April-Conference 1917, 6th Congress) had entirely subscribed to Lenin’s views. Perhaps it is only done to deprecate the party and to make certain saviors seem all the greater.

There is no party. The leaders act instead of the party. Lenin gives advice from a distance, not without making mistakes in practical questions (as to the time of the revolution, as to the “legality of the Soviets,” as to the beginning of the insurrection in Moscow.) The action is carried on outside the party, in spite of the party, by isolated leaders, in the first place by Comrade Trotsky himself.

Comrade Trotsky pushes the party aside and finally denies its significance. The Communist Youth, which contains the nucleus of those who took part in the October Revolution, must refute this way of representing things. October was the work of the whole party, under Lenin’s guidance.

Comrade Trotsky criticizes without any consideration the mistakes made by Comrade Zinoviev and Kamnev at the time of the October Revolution. These mistakes are well known; they were long ago recognized and corrected by those who committed them.

Anyone who knows anything about the Bolshevik Party, knows that the temporary mistakes made by these comrades at the time of the October Revolution are as nothing compared to their work and their services in the period of twenty years before and after October. Everyone knows that



FROM MONTGOMERY WARD’S.

Dear Friends:

More power to you for exposing the hell-hole of Montgomery Ward & Co. The parcel post floor is the worst and cheapest place of all. It is run by a dog named McCord who is hated and feared by all. He sends you home and docks you if you are one minute late. After the Christmas rush is over about three days before so many are fired it takes several nights to do it.

Here are some of the stunts and bad features of Ward’s. One: The dicks search your clothes in the lockers any time they want to. Two: They “plant” things to see if you will steal them. Three: They lay you off any time for as long as they please. Four: Length of service means nothing when they can hire cheap labor. Five: Outsiders are brot in to boss the place and few get out of the ranks instead of getting deserved promotions. Six: Anyone complaining or telling fellow workers of unjust treatment is called a Bolshevik and fired. And so forth and so forth.

Please continue your drive on Ward’s.

A Ward Slave.

PIN BOYS.

New Haven, Conn.

Dear Comrades:

I am sure that not many of us ever think of who or what a pin boy is

and what is his work. A brief definition of a pin boy is: A human creature that gives his two knees and back to the idle, amusement seekers, the rich.

The work of the pin boy is the most difficult, drudging work that could be devised by the capitalists for making human wrecks. This work can be easily rated on the same rung of the ladder of misery and slavery as young mine workers and boys that work in the cotton and beet fields of the south.

If you would just think of it—hundreds, yes, hundreds of young boys of the ages of 14 to 16, who should be in school, instead slave away from 8 o’clock in the morning to 12 o’clock at night for a measly, unbearable wage of \$7.00 a week. And here is the place where they are made future cripples for the rest of their lives (many are hit accidentally by flying pins that fall onto the legs and arms.) And the worst part of this work is that you slave on your knees, instead of your feet, always with a bent back. These young slaves can be found in rich club houses, equipped with bowling alleys, or in public alleys.

Fraternally yours,

Philip Horwitz.

IT MEANS NOTHING.

Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Comrades:

The Julius Andrea Sons and Co., of Milwaukee are the distributors of the

big ventilating fan, one of the best-known and supposedly best ventilating systems in the country. But it doesn’t mean anything to the stenographers, bookkeepers, and office help, to say nothing of the shop help. There is not a single fan in operation in the whole office section which covers several hundred square feet. The air is stifling—drowsiness soon comes on the employees, but one can’t very well sleep on the job—especially when one’s boss has your every move watched.

The only place to get air is in the wash rooms. There is a narrow, dirty dungeon-like room, one and only window is thrown wide open and the cold refreshing air rushes in on the hot, air-hungry employees. Result: Bad colds, influenza, occasional cases of pneumonia. Everybody snifflies, sneezes and coughs and wonders why so many people are sick at this time.

When asked why there was no ventilating system, one employee answered that they were “trying to put one in.” The firm has been in the same site for over ten years. It is one of the firms that is always trying to do things. It is always trying to improve the conditions of its employees, but never does. Even the old man has been “trying” to die for the past ten or fifteen years, but his heirs are still depending on his signature on their checks.

“Slave.”

We know no worse insult to the members of the Communist Party than that of comparing them to that opportunist scoundrel Hilferding. But Comrade Trotsky forgets what Lenin wrote on Oct. 6th, 1917:

“On the eve of the October revolution and on the following day, some excellent Communists made a mistake which one is loth to remember. Why? Because it is unjust unnecessarily to recall mistakes of this kind when amends have been completely made. Within a few weeks or at the most a few months, all these comrades recognized their mistakes and returned to the most responsible positions in the party and the soviets.”

These mistakes and this hesitation cannot be of course be erased from the history of the October revolution. But the mere reading of the “Lessons of October” is enough to convince one that his object is not to represent past mistakes but to raise a particularly pointed polemic against two comrades who held leading positions in our party—a polemic which Comrade Trotsky continues by connecting it with old mistakes corrected long ago, and which is, as a matter of fact, nothing but an attempt, after his defeat in the party discussions, to make use of old discussions in order to bring about a

change in the recent policy.

Comrade Trotsky not only finds strong terms with which to qualify actual mistakes, he inflates the mistakes themselves.

Thus he quotes from the letter of October 1917, which is signed by Kamenev and Zinoviev, the following passage: “The Constituent Assembly and the Soviets are the combined type of state institutions towards which we are steering”—and makes the following comment:

“It is strikingly characteristic of the whole attitude of the Right, that the theory of the ‘combined state,’ which places the Constituent Assembly and the Soviets on one level, was repeated 18 months to years later in Germany by Rudolf Hilferding, who also combated the seizure of power by the proletariat. The Austro-German opportunist did not know that he was plagiarizing.”

*) The “Arbeiter-Weg,” which appeared instead of the suppressed “Pravda” was, at that time, the central organ of the party; and the article quoted by Lenin to the annoyance of Comrade Trotsky, issued from Zinoviev’s pen.

(To Be Continued)

CHICAGO MEMBERSHIP MEETING THREE TO ONE FOR POLICY OF LEAGUE AND WORKERS PARTY MAJORITY

Following a thorough discussion of the statement of the national executive committee of the Young Workers League, published in the

last issue of The Young Worker, and presented at the meeting of the members of the Chicago league by comrade John Williamson, national secretary, the meeting went on record indorsing the statement by a vote almost three to one.

The resolution was as follows:

“The meeting of the members of the Young Workers’ League of Chicago, having heard the statement of the national executive committee of the league on the problems and tasks before us, declares itself in whole-hearted agreement and harmony with the position and policies as set forth therein.

We endorse the stand taken by our national committee on the situation within the Workers Party and we declare ourselves in agreement with the policy of the central executive committee of the Workers Party as expressed in its thesis, published in The DAILY WORKER, November 26, 1924.

This meeting further declares its approval of the position of the national executive committee of the Young Workers’ League and of the central executive committee of the Workers Party in their efforts to maintain the correct Leninist position by following the line of the Communist International, and thus the conducting of the struggle against the second and a half internationalist tendency of Lore, and against the right wing, revisionist deviations of the Lovestone-Rutherford tendency.”

This resolution was carried by a vote of 67 for it, and 26 for a minority resolution presented by Comrade Kaplan. The discussion was very exhaustive, dozens of comrades speaking. The membership meeting followed a series of branch meetings at which the policy of the national committee was sustained with equally overwhelming sentiment.

Society is composed of two classes—those who have more appetite than dinner, and those who have more dinner than appetite.—George Bernard Shaw.

TOILING YOUTH

By HARRY GANNES.

THE workers’ children do not have the care of their parents because, as Robert Hunter says, of the “necessity which compels both mother and father . . . to work early and late.”

About thirty-seven per cent of the working class mothers are employed. This is not due to the death of the father. A study of working mothers proved that but 42 per cent of the mothers worked because of either the death or the disability (the latter due usually to bad working conditions) of the father. Of the fathers that worked, most of them made under \$100 a month. This is not enough to keep a single man and it is ridiculous to try to provide for a mother with three or four children with this sum.

Here are two examples of how the workers’ children fare insofar as the care of their parents is concerned:

The mother of a girl, 11, and a boy, 8, was a paralytic. The father worked in the steel mills 12 hours a day. The children had not been in school all year and were alone all day, doing whatever housework that was done.

If the mother is dead, the father finds it even more difficult than the mother to take the place of both parents. Leaving the children with relatives often seems the easiest solution of the problem, but it is not always a satisfactory

such a case was that of a 12-year-old dependent girl found living with her maternal grandmother and aunt in a house of prostitution. Her mother was dead; her father had married again and had other children. He had allowed the grandmother to keep the little girl. He seldom saw her, and he knew nothing of the conditions of the home.” (The Chicago Juvenile Court, page 23.)

It is easy to multiply the above cases by at least ten thousand.

The records of the juvenile courts show that almost without exception the young criminals are the children of the workers, who, because of conditions not brought about by themselves, are forced very early into a life of crime.

Our very learned gentlemen connected with the courts and with the long-named societies for the protection of animals and children talk a lot about disease and mental conditions being the cause of crime among children. But they overlook the fact that the diseases and mental ailments come about primarily thru poor nutrition (under feeding) suffered by nearly all workers’ children, and most severely by the children of the poorer workers, who contribute the greater number of young offenders.

Dr. William Healy is one of the very wise students of child criminals who blame everything on mental conditions. Let us take one of the doctor’s own cases and see what he finds. He is talking about an 8½ year old boy who used to steal habitually. Says the doctor:

“The developmental history showed that there had been much nutritional difficulty in early infancy. . . . The home life was characterized by poverty. . . .” (Child Labor Bureau Publication No. 96, p. 155.)

The fancy term, “nutritional difficulty,” means the child didn’t have enough of the proper kind of food.

Even the older criminals are composed almost entirely of the youth of the workers. Because of the extremely low wages they get, many of the girls of the working class are forced to become prostitutes.

Robert Hunter in “poverty” estimated that there were, at the time he wrote his book, out of a population of 90 million, at least 10 million people living in utter poverty. With the population at 110 millions, the poverty figure has jumped to at least 14 millions. But this does not express the environment of the great number of youth and working class children who live in destitute circumstances.

For a while things might go all right with the parents; the father might work and make a bare living—live on what is known as the border line of destitution. Then comes an accident or unemployment. It is a known fact that every worker suffers unemployment at some time or other during his life; often, most severely. There is a constant army of 2 million unemployed in the United States during normal periods. So there is a constant army of acutely poverty stricken workers. The normal figure is 14 million; and for a longer or shorter time every member of the working class helps to make up this gigantic figure of 14 million who live worse than the beasts of the field and whose children are wrinkled and dwarfed in body and mind.

Not very long ago an opportunity was afforded us to find out the effect of their living conditions and their work

upon the health and mentality of the American youth. When this country entered the war in 1917

The Tasks of the Young Workers League

FOREWORD

The following document is the statement presented by Comrade Nat Kaplan to the national executive committee. It received only Comrade Kaplan's vote. The statement printed in the last issue of the Young Worker is the statement of the national executive committee of the Young Workers League, endorsed by comrades Mass, Gannes, Shachtman, Salzman, Carlson, Williamson, Abern, Borgeson, Edwards and Cannon.

A Statement by the N. E. C. of the Y. W. L. on the Problems and Political Tasks of the League.

Proposed by NAT KAPLAN
Minority Member, of N. E. C.

Part I.

MAY 20th, 1923 will always be a red letter day in the history of the young communist movement of this country. It was on that day—more than a year and a half ago—that the second national convention of the Young Workers League of America took place. In the period that intervened, between the second convention and now, the Young Workers League of America has more than ever before become an integral part of our world organization—the Young Communist International. The third national convention of our League will have as its basic task to determine to what extent the decisions of the Y. C. I. have been concretely carried into effect, thru their adaptation to existing conditions in this country, and the planning of our future work—further realization of the tasks set us by the Fourth Bureau Session and the Fourth World Congress of the Young Communist International.

The second national convention of our league laid the basis for the shifting of the centre of our activities from the internal and external, political and tactical problems, which were being solved by the Workers Party to the special tasks of a young communist organization; that of reaching the working class youth.

Prior to this time, as we stated as our second convention, "only the beginning of the systematic educational work had been made, "the industrial work had lagged, and the work of the children's section had been delayed. Anti-military propaganda, linked up with concrete situations and with definite proposals had not yet commenced.

The period prior to the second convention was characterized by the fact that the league, from the N. E. C. to the lowest units was permeated with a passive and active opposition to the work among the masses of young workers, in their daily struggles. This was mainly due to our lack of understanding of the true role of a Communist youth organization and because our league was still imbued with the old Y. P. S. L. ideology, the sectarian nature of our work in the underground communist movement and because we had failed to win over a large number of industrial young workers to our organization.

At the second national convention a set of theses and resolutions were adopted under the guidance of Comrade Bammatter, the representative of Y. C. I., which aimed at making the Y. W. L. the leader of the young workers of this country in their daily struggles. This was particularly portrayed by the adoption of the theses calling for the reorganization of the league on the basis of shop nuclei. The other decisions of the conventions aimed at the same goal.

After the Second Convention—a Turning Point

Similar to the leagues in other countries, the Y. W. L. of A. from its highest to its lowest units, passed thru three main stages in the application of the second convention decisions. These were: 1. The period of the discussion of the decisions and the questioning of the advisability of putting them into effect. 2. The period of purely journalistic propaganda for the decisions and 3. The actual application of these decisions and the direct participation in the everyday struggles of the young workers for their economic and political demands.

The evolution thru these three stages was particularly true of the economic trade union work. The special factor in this field of work, namely, the fact that the N. E. C. was unnecessarily prolonging the first period of discussion and the questioning of the advisability of carrying the decisions into effect, was typical of most of our other decisions. This was primarily a reflex of the opposition of the American delegation at the third congress of the Y. C. I. (Aern, Edwards) to the economic trade union program. This first period of discussion, hesitation and doubt, then evolved into the second period. Our press was filled with a "journalistic" economic trade union campaign.

Even before we reached the second period we had the opportunity of entering into the third. On June 19th, 1923, in response to our open letter to the American Federation of Labor, on the question of organizing the unorganized young workers, we secured our historic conference with the arch-reactionary Gompers. The N. E. C. absolutely failed to take full advantage of the opportunities that such a conference offered us. It made two outstanding mistakes at this time: (1) The fact that it propagated the demand for the establishment of a youth secretariat in the A. F. of L. and (2) we did not follow up the conference with a campaign among the rank and file of the A. F. of L. in local unions, and so on, on the issue of: Young workers to be admitted into the unions with equal rights and lower entrance fees and dues. The failure on the part of the N. E. C. to do the latter and to discard the former still left us in the stage of hesitancy.

In the strikes of the Ladies Garment Workers in Chicago, the Cigar Workers strike at Bethlehem, we participated in a general way in these walkouts but we failed to set up special demands for the young workers. The one sided factional article by Comrade Carlson in the September 15th issue of the Young Worker is which he says: "Another of Kaplan's main points of criticism went up in smoke when Comrade Sigl-Bammatter, reporting on trade union economic work said that it was ridiculous to have expected the Y. W. L. to put out special youth slogans in the Chicago clothing workers strike of this spring." was utterly false. The Y. C. I. in a recent communication to the N. E. C. reprimanded it for the factional articles of Comrade Carlson and Williamson and pointed out that Comrade Bammatter did not say the things mentioned. On the contrary, the Y. C. I. emphatically declared that it was the duty of the Y. W. L. to issue special slogans and demands in the general strike movement of the working class.

We definitely entered the third stage in economic trade union work, in the Carmen's strike at Hegewisch, where we set up a special youth demands, called meetings of the young strikers, and organized a league nucleus. This nucleus expired a short time after the strike because it was not given the proper nourishment by the more experienced leading comrades in the Chicago league. The cases of the factory campaigns against Bunn, the National Biscuit Company, and mail order houses are also typical of this stage. These factory campaigns are as yet mainly literature selling campaigns in front of the factories. This extremely good start will have to be extended so that it will result in definite organizational benefits for the Y. W. L., the organization of shop nuclei, etc. That these campaigns have not resulted in definite organizational benefits, because of the failure to follow up the sentiment created, with the hard, elementary organization work, is attested by the fact that the actual dues paying membership of the Chicago League, which was in the centre of these campaigns, has gone steadily down.

The New York League, which is now definitely entering the third stage in economic trade union work, must take special cognizance of the Chicago experiences. The entrance into the third stage on the field, must not remain the special function of the New York, Chicago, or Detroit league. It must spread nationally through the units of our organization. We have already laid the basis for this in the contacts which we have gained with the youth of the mines, and steel mills in Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

Growth on Other Fields.

The League has grown from one thousand members, in fifty branches, at the time of the second national convention, to a much more active league with an estimated membership of from three thousand five hundred, to four thousand in one hundred and fifty branches and nine nuclei. The three principal districts where we have gained new contacts are Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota. The fact that the proportion of new territorial units organized is far in excess of our organization of shop nuclei is not a very healthy sign from the viewpoint of the complete reorganization of the league. This will have to be rectified in the future. The fact that Illinois and Pennsylvania are large industrial centers, coal and steel being the dominant industry, should have given our organizers a greater impetus for the organization of new units on the basis of the shop and factory from the very start. It is a healthy factor, though, that the new members gained to our organization are dominated from the very start with the spirit of mass activity which is permeating the organization at the present time.

The reorganization of the league upon the basis of shop nuclei has evolved from an extremely slow process to one that is more steady in its character. The extreme slowness, the fact that after a year and a half of agitation we only have nine nuclei, was caused by the lack of understanding by part of our membership, of the idea of shop nuclei, a part of our membership in passive or active opposition to it, and the non existence of a more aggressive national direction. However, the ideological campaign conducted by the N. E. C. among the membership finally made the great bulk of them realize that the very life of our league depended upon its reorganization.

The first nuclei organized, due to lack of leadership soon collapsed. This however, proved to be no obstacle in the path of continuing the organization of nuclei. At the present time we have five nuclei in Chicago, two in Pittsburgh, and two in Boston. There are two prospective nuclei in Detroit and others are in process of formation. Besides this, the Chicago, Detroit and New York leagues have already reorganized on the basis of working area branches, as steps towards the complete reorganization of the league of shop nuclei. The work of organizing nuclei must be so pushed in the immediate future that it will culminate in the achievement of the allotted quota called for by our program of action. The intensification of our economic trade union activity will give a greater incentive to the organization of shop nuclei.

In the field of press we have made a big advance. At the last convention we realized that "we had failed so far to make the Young Worker the kind of publication that would appeal to the young workers." From our semi-literary Young Worker magazine with nice stories, poems and so on, was born a semi monthly newspaper, during the month of January 1924. This indeed was a big stride forward. To

day our official organ realizes the necessity of taking up the many struggles, strikes, campaigns of the young industrial workers and finds a ready sale wherever it is presented. Comrade Richard Schueler reporting on behalf of the Executive of the Y. C. I. at the recent congress spoke very highly of the changed Young Worker. The Young Worker must go forward to ever greater achievements. The entire membership must be rallied for a campaign to turn it into a weekly organ by 1925. A weekly mouthpiece for the American working class youth is our immediate goal.

In the last period we have given birth to a monthly communist children paper, The Young Comrade. That, indeed, was a big achievement for the N. E. C. reprimanded it for the factional articles of Comrade Carlson and Williamson and pointed out that Comrade Bammatter did not say the things mentioned. On the contrary, the Y. C. I. emphatically declared that it was the duty of the Y. W. L. to issue special slogans and demands in the general strike movement of the working class.

Recently, we published three small pamphlets, dealing with the youth in specific industries. The makeup and contents of these pamphlets make them very popular and we should make every effort to give them a mass distribution.

Our biggest single achievement was the organization of the Communist Children's Movement, the Junior Section of the Y. W. L. of A. Immediately after the second convention the national junior department began the practical work of realizing the convention decision. Today the junior section numbers several thousand children organized in more than a hundred junior groups throughout the country. The groups are trying to organize on the basis of school nuclei so as to be better able to conduct the school struggle. The American junior section is considered among the best in the English speaking movement. The reason for this can be found in the fact that the national junior department has very closely followed the line laid down by the Y. C. I. in children's work. Thus the mistake made in the first junior organization plan, that of attempting to separate the children according to different age degrees was easily rectified. The New York and Chicago junior section has won over many children who were formally influenced by the old pedagogy of the Workers Sunday Schools. The most healthy sign of the junior section has been the maintenance of its character as an organization of struggle from the very start. One concerted action after another has testified to the capabilities of the juniors as fighters in the class struggle. In this regard the N. E. C. has made decided errors when it refused to take a stand against the "bourgeoisie greater economy" Detroit plateau system of the Public schools and refused to sanction the participation of the junior section in the Creve School strike. The attitude of leading comrades of the N. E. C. that such demands as: "Free meals in the schools for the children to be provided by the state," was charity and that we cannot tolerate such demands, greatly hampered the enrollment of the junior section into an actual struggle against child labor and the general misery of the proletarian children in the schools. Finally, after the persistent demands of the minority on the N. E. C. a program of action for our struggle against child labor was adopted. This program remained a paper program without action. The junior section must, now, more than ever, be enrolled in an energetic struggle against child labor. It together with the league must actively participate in the united front anti-child labor campaign started by the party. It must endeavor to broaden out this struggle from the issue of securing the endorsement of the state legislatures for an amendment to the constitution giving Congress the right to enact child labor legislation, to one of definite actions based upon the concrete demands of the child laborers and the proletarian children (in connection with the general struggles of the working class, the school struggle, school strikes, etc.) In these struggles the league must endeavor to set up proletarian parents' councils of the Public schools and to organize the children into nuclei of the junior section. Greater efforts must be made in the junior section to coordinate the class struggle activities with a systematic Communist educational work.

Our struggle against child labor and the proletarian children (in connection with the general struggles of the working class, the school struggle, school strikes, etc.) In these struggles the league must endeavor to set up proletarian parents' councils of the Public schools and to organize the children into nuclei of the junior section. Greater efforts must be made in the junior section to coordinate the class struggle activities with a systematic Communist educational work.

The intensification of the disagreement between the majority and the minority on the E. C. of the party, culminating in the present discussion period, only added fuel to the flames of disagreement between the two groupings in the league. The minority on the N. E. C. of the league aligned itself with the viewpoint of the Marxist group of Comrade Ruthenberg, Bedacht and Lovestone in the party, while the majority reaffirmed its adherence to the Foster, Cannon, Bittelman grouping. To attempt to hide this state of affairs with a campaign of silence can only lead to increased bitterness and confusion in the lower units of our organization. The way to settle a problem is not to ignore it. The present internal situation in the league must be settled once and for all in line with the decision of the Young Communist International.

The Immediate Tasks of the Y. W. L. and the Program of Action.

The disagreement between the two groupings in the league must not result in the stagnation of our activities. Both tendencies must actively work for the realization of our immediate tasks. The program of action, covering a stated period of time, is a correct application of the Y. C. I. decision and all comrades must put their shoulders to the wheel for the realization of the tasks set. The goal set in this program of action for each field of work gives a clear lead to ever district and city to follow.

The theses and resolutions adopted at the second convention are still applicable at the present time, since they were fundamentally correct and remain the basis for our future activities, with the added experience that we have gained in applying these decisions as well as the experiences expressed in the decisions of the Fourth Bureau session and the Fourth World Congress of the Y. C. I.

In view of the correctness of these resolutions the N. E. C. believes that the main task before the Y. W. L. during the next year of activity consists of the drive to bolshevize the league, to make our organization a Young Leninist league. To this end we must intensify our activities along the following lines:

1. To complete reorganization of the Y. W. L. on the basis of shop nuclei by the next national convention.

2. The intensification of the economic trade union activity. (a) Thru the active and direct participation of the league in the every day struggles of the working class as the leader of the working class youth and the representative of its demands and needs thru advancing and fighting for definite economic and political demands that arises out of the daily struggles.

In the field of press we have made a big advance. At the last convention we realized that "we had failed so far to make the Young Worker the kind of publication that would appeal to the young workers."

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Finally, due to the persistence of Comrade Pepper, of the C. E. C. of the party, a definite campaign was launched on the Tea Pot Dome issue and 100,000 leaflets were distributed. Recently we had the experience of a comrade attending the bourgeois Citizen's Military Training Camps. We made a mistake in merely utilizing this experience for the sake of securing information and not as the means of organizing actions against the camps from inside. The Y. C. I. declared that the party was right in refusing to give up comrades from the party work to go into the camp to merely gather information. The utilization of this issue by the N. E. C. to suspend and censure members who held the minority viewpoint was nothing but a one sided factional attack against the principle of the Y. C. I. decision.

A small beginning has been made in agrarian work by gaining contacts with the farming sections of Minn., Wis., and Michigan. These contacts must now be used for the furtherance of our work among the rural youth in connection with the agrarian program laid down by the Y. C. I. **The Y. C. I. and Healthy Minority Was Impetus for Increased Mass Activity.**

The prolongation of the first period of hesitancy and doubt in the realization of the second convention decisions—the fact that the N. E. C. was carrying out the decisions in a hesitating manner, led to discussion between the N. E. C. and the Y. C. I. later in connection with the situation within the party, there also arose a discussion between the majority and the minority of the N. E. C., which culminated in a factional dispute.

The corrective measures proposed by the Y. C. I. and the existence of a healthy minority in the league which wished a more rapid and less reserved carrying out of the decisions of the Young Communist International (Richard Schueler) was in the last analysis responsible for the increased mass activity.

The decision of the Y. C. I. that both groupings in the league must work together was not realized because of the refusal of the majority of the N. E. C. to abide by this decision. This was portrayed by the campaign carried on by the majority delegates in the press against the minority, upon their return from the fourth congress. The false charge that the minority delegate at the fourth congress had been severely thrashed only led to increase bitterness in the ranks of our league. As an addition to this press campaign the majority had also nullified the practical work of minority comrades in responsible league positions, and under the pretext of failure to go in to the C. M. T. C. to gather information, has suspended and censured leading comrades who held the viewpoint of the minority. The intensification of the disagreement between the majority and the minority on the E. C. of the party, culminating in the present discussion period, only added fuel to the flames of disagreement between the two groupings in the league. The minority on the N. E. C. of the league aligned itself with the viewpoint of the Marxist group of Comrade Ruthenberg, Bedacht and Lovestone in the party, while the majority reaffirmed its adherence to the Foster, Cannon, Bittelman grouping.

To attempt to hide this state of affairs with a campaign of silence can only lead to increased bitterness and confusion in the lower units of our organization. The way to settle a problem is not to ignore it. The present internal situation in the league must be settled once and for all in line with the decision of the Young Communist International.

7. Increased activity to build up the working class. (a) Thru the intensification of the active school struggle. (b) Thru the building of school, class, and shop nuclei of the proletarian children. (c) Thru the coordination of systematic educational work with the class struggle activities. (d) Thru the maintenance and growth of the YOUNG COMRADE newspaper. (e) Thru increased sales and distribution. (f) Thru the reinstatement of a practical national leadership. (g) Thru an energetic campaign against child labor with concrete slogans and demands.

(h) By enrolling the proletarian parents in the struggle against child misery.

8. Definite assistance to the Workers Sports and Athletic Alliance (American section R. S. L.) so as to aid it in organizing a national workers sport and athletic alliance, embracing a wide field of young proletarian athletes. Strenuous opposition to all attempts to amalgamate existing proletarian culture clubs into an organization or alliance to combat bourgeoisie culture.

9. The utilization of the connections in the farming areas as a beginning of our work on the land aiming at the organization of the young agricultural wage workers and the youth of the poor peasantry under our banner. Attempting to win over the youth of the middle peasantry to the idea of an alliance with the city proletariat against capitalism or at least to neutralize them in the struggle. The organization of the Y. W. L. village and large farm and estate nuclei and the leading of definite actions of the rural youth with concrete demands.

10. The rejuvenation of the league (a) Thru the immediate elimination of all members over 25 years of age, all above that age to enter completely into party work. (b) Thru the quick development of comrades 23 years of age and under as functionaries in the league to take the place of the older comrades.

11. The immediate development of a supplementary apparatus.

12. Continuation of our policy to win over the foreign language speaking working class youth. The maintenance of foreign language propaganda bodies. The issuance of special literature from time to time.

13. The development of a stronger and firmer discipline and the centralization of activities, thru the complete elimination of factional discrimination by the N. E. C. and controlling bodies and absolutely forbidding the formation of groups or fractions in the league.

(b) Thru the increased activity of our members in trade unions and the definite establishment of youth fractions to advance the demands of the league. (c) By initiating and leading special youth campaigns as the ones carried out against Bunte, the mail order house, etc. (d) Thru the organization of conferences of the working class youth where conditions are favorable, such as, where we already have shop nuclei. (e) Thru conducting an energetic campaign to organize the young workers into the trade unions under the slogan: Every Y. W. L. member a union member, equal rights and lower entrance fees and dues for the young workers. (f) By carrying on special youth activities within the T. U. E. L. besides the general activities.

PART II.
The Political Tasks of the Young Workers League

ALTHO the shifting of the centre of our activities from the internal and external political and tactical problems of the W. P. to the more concrete task of a young Communist organization—that of reaching the masses of young workers, was an absolutely essential factor for our development, it would be incorrect to carry this to its extreme.

The members of the Y. W. L. must, now, more than ever before, participate in the discussions, decisions and daily activities of our political leader—the Workers Party. We must learn how to combine our participation in the activities of the party, which prepares us for our transference to the party, with our own special youth tasks, so that none are neglected.

The Y. W. L., from its highest to its lowest units, must always support the position of the Communist International in the party. We must persistently strive towards the Bolshevikization of the Communist movement thru the correct application of Marxian-Leninist principles and tactic.

The main tasks of the Workers (Communist) Party is to gain leadership of the exploited masses of this country by establishing itself as a Mass Communist Party of Industrial workers, and the securing of an alliance with the poorer sections of the armers in the struggle for a Workers and Farmers Government—the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

The means towards the development of the Workers Party into a Mass Communist Party is first and foremost the participation of the party in the every day struggles of the workers in the shops, trade unions, etc. The intensification of direct work among the rural masses and reaching with our message the exploited masses in the colonies of American imperialism. The development of independent political action on the part of the non communist proletarian masses and exploited farmers, by applying the farmer-labor united front tactic, which serves the purpose of welding together the isolated daily actions of the exploited masses into a unified political unit against the bourgeoisie.

6. Greater attention to be directed towards the organizing of the young Negro workers of America. (a) Thru constant agitation to show the immediate dangers of new imperialist wars. (b) Thru the consistent struggle against pacifist and social democratic illusions and the exposure of the Communist viewpoint. (c) Thru the establishment of connections with the revolutionary peoples' youth and student movements in the colonies of American imperialism. (d) Thru the establishment of contact with the young workers

THE YOUNG WORKER

An Organ of the Militant Young Workers of America

Vol. IV. JANUARY 1, 1925 No. 1
Published Twice a Month by the
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA
MAX SHACHTMAN, EditorSend all orders and articles, and remit all funds to
THE YOUNG WORKER
1113 W. Washington Blvd. Chicago, Ill.
SUBSCRIPTION: \$1.00 per year. Single copies 5 cents. 3 cents per copy for bundles of 10 and over.
Member of The Federated Press.**The Spark May Become a Flame**

WHEREVER the dry and rotten wood of capitalism exists, the flames of misery burn up the lives of the workers. The greatest fire of all is capitalist war.

Today, when the contradictions within capitalism are becoming daily more acute, when the rivalries between capitalist powers are as sharp as ever, it needs but some spark to set the world afire with a world war more bloody and horrible, engulfing greater masses of young proletarians than ever before.

As this is being written the spark is being blown into flame in the Balkans of Europe. The state of Albania has ordered a general mobilization of troops to repel an alleged invasion by Serbia. Italy, under the imperialist rule of the blackguard Mussolini, threatens to interfere if troops cross the Albanian frontier. By the time this issue of our paper is printed the flames of war may or may not rise to cover the entire European continent.

The parallel of this incident with the one which preceded the last world war is extremely significant. Out of a small, trifling occurrence, it seemed that the world war was begun. In reality, preparations for it had been going on for years, and the murder of the Austrian archduke was the pretext for the beginning of the murderfest. The same thing may happen again at a moment's notice.

The imperialists of the world remain, all of them, unsatisfied with the "solution" of the peace problem of the last war. None of them are satisfied with the amount of territory or gold obtained. All are hungry for another war which will give them an opportunity to re-divide the world into larger portions for themselves, larger amounts of territory for exploitation, larger reservoirs of profit. The conflict of American, British, Japanese and French imperialism, combined with that of their lesser satellites, become intensified with the passage of days. A break may come tomorrow. All signs point to its inevitability.

There is not the slightest doubt that all the military, naval and aerial preparations being made by the United States and other nations are for an other purpose than preparation for new wars immediately. The capitalists feel the coming of war and they are preparing for it. The workers do not yet fully realize the holocaust that is being prepared for them.

We cannot expect that we shall be able to prevent war. We do not attempt to lie to the workers nor delude them with promises that we can halt imperialist wars. Thru their control of all the institutions of the government and of capitalism, of all the sources of information, the bourgeoisie is able to buy up their fake leaders and get them to support their imperialist schemes. Wars come so suddenly that it is impossible for the workers to successfully stop them.

Only one thing can really bring an end to capitalist wars, and the Russian proletariat demonstrated that. Wars are a result of capitalist society; the end of wars presupposes the end of capitalism. It is only thru the overthrow of bloody capitalist rule that the terrors of wars can be ended.

In the struggle for its overthrow the communists present the correct position, lead in the right direction. Only uncompromising, relentless class struggle can bring the workers to success in their historic mission. Class war is the means towards ending capitalist war. The war of the workers against their oppressors is the only war that deserves support!

A Lenin Enrollment For Us

WHEN our great leader, Nicolai Lenin died, his loss was felt in every circle of the working class revolutionary movement. Nowhere was it felt so keenly as in Russia itself, where Lenin's leadership had brought the first proletarian revolution to its present state of power and success, where he had identified himself so closely with every struggle of the workers, where his incorruptible position in every working class problem had earned him the love and following of millions.

Both the Russian Communist Party and the Young Communist League realized the gap left in their ranks most keenly. With his death came the necessity of enrolling tens of thousands of workers into the ranks of the organized communist movement. The famous Lenin enrollment was initiated, and its results were remarkably successful. Two hundred thousand workers from the benches joined the Communist Party. Tens of thousands of young proletarians joined the Young Communist League. These workers were privileged: they were part of the great Lenin Enrollment.

But the death of Lenin affected not only Russia, but also the revolutionary and working class movements of the rest of the world. In the United States, as well as elsewhere, our Communist movement has responded to the significance of Comrade Lenin's death. At last year's memorial meetings, tens of thousands of workers responded to our call. This year these workers must be drawn into

the party and league of Leninism.

The Workers Party and the Young Workers League, under whose joint auspices the Lenin Memorial Meetings will be held, will utilize the occasion, not as a day of mourning, but as another milestone in the development of the revolutionary movement in this country. Every effort will be made to enroll workers into both party and league in a big Lenin Enrollment drive. These workers will be equally privileged with their Russian comrades who filled the gap left by Lenin.

Every member of the league, in every unit in the country, should make it a communist duty to bring in at least one new young worker into our ranks on this day. The first step is by bringing them to the Liebknecht Day meetings. The next is their actual enrollment at the Lenin Memorial meetings.

Rally thousands of young workers to the standard of Lenin! Let our slogan be: Build shop nuclei with the young workers from the industries on Lenin Day!

Spread the message of Leninism! Pay tribute to our immortal leader with new legions of revolutionary youth!

Make the memorial to Lenin a historic day in the bolshevization of the Young Workers League!

The Bitter Cry of Children

EVERY day brings a new report of the conditions of the child slaves in every industry of this country. America, with its capitalist coffers bursting, is degrading and degenerating the health and minds of the proletarian children, in order that the profits that are so easily derived from the bitter toil of these kiddies may continue to pour in.

The same hog faced crew that so religiously talks about the sacredness of the home, and the brilliant futures that America offers to its children, turn a stony countenance to the sufferings of the workers whose low wages force them to turn their children over to the mill of capitalist exploitation. Instead of parting with some of their ill-earned wealth to pay the workers a better wage and give them more wholesome conditions, the urge towards greater profits brings the boss to cut the wages and lengthen the workday irrespective of the harm it wreaks on the worker and his child.

The children who are far from being subject to organization as easily as the workers get into trade unions, are exploited more cruelly and viciously than the adults. They are paid even lower wages and work under worse conditions. They take the jobs of the other workers at cheaper rates, bringing greater loads of gold to the purses of their masters.

The workers of America must set themselves the task of eliminating this horrible evil. The attempts made by the liberals and the fake labor leaders—whether inside the A. F. of L. or in congress—can never accomplish anything for the workers or their children. It is only by the direct action of the workers in their own interests that they will be able to achieve any beneficial results for themselves. It is the duty of the workers, especially the young who still feel the pain suffered during child slavery, to unite on the program promulgated by the communists for a struggle against child labor, not by writing pretty laws to which the capitalists never pay any attention, but by ACTING against this menace to the health and lives of the future men and women of the revolutionary proletariat.

Gompers Kicks the Bucket

AT last he went and done it! After hanging on to the American labor movement like a leech for over two score years, Samuel Gompers, arch-reactionary in America, a dodering, seniled old faker has died.

And the weeping that accompanied him as he was laid between those two sterlings friends of the working class. Andy Carnegie and William Rockefeller was enough to bring tears to the eyes of the greatest skeptic in the world. Scores of bankers, business men, skypilots of all stripes, creeds and variety, notorious labor fakers—the captains and lieutenants of Wall Street, could not back the salty tears as they trickled down their bloated cheeks and stained their fancy vests. There was hardly a banker, scarcely a reactionary individual or institution, that did not feel that a good friend had departed forever.

We ain't weeping. The old traitor fought the slightest measure of progress during his life time, and there is no doubt but that his successor, representing the same clique and tendency of class collaboration and treason that Sam did, will continue in the footsteps of the deceased. The fight that was conducted by the revolutionaries in the labor movement was the struggle against the ideas—if he ever had one—and the principles—if such a scoundrel could have one, again,—that Gompers represented. The same fight goes on today and will continue tomorrow and the next day until Gompers is dead on the labor movement, and the organized workers have learned the lessons of solidarity, revolutionary action, and communist leadership.

Don't weep! Organize! Only the bosses bemoan the death of their faithful lackey.

You have not done your share for the Weekly Young Worker what excuse have you for it? When you grow old and your grandchild pops up on your knee and says: "Grandpa, did you do your share in 1924?"—what will you answer? C'mon, send in the money!

Thirty one miners died in the crash of a cage in South Africa. Ah, the terrible risks that the capitalist takes in industry! He certainly deserves the profits he makes.

League Exposes Big Westinghouse Electric Plant

(Continued from page 1)

the speed up system as developed in this workers' paradise." If any worker happens to loaf he is liable to find a gum shoe man behind him who reports any infraction of the rules. Foreman often complain that the superintendents are continually pushing them for more production and superintendents in turn are continually being pushed from above—for more evermore—production. Drive! Drive!

Fake Committees.

If anytime the workers should become discontented with their conditions the company has set up a shop or industrial committee which has no power but to merely beg for a few crumbs from the boss. Often a crumb is thrown to the worker in the shape of an insignificant reform and he is led to believe that the shop committee has power to help him. The executive committee to which most of the grievances are sent is composed of an equal number of the representatives of the workers and an equal number of representatives of the company and if at any time the company representatives should agree with the workers' representatives, which is highly improbable, even then they cannot force the company to grant their demands.

It sometimes happens that a committee man takes his job seriously and fights for the grievances of the men and if this fighter becomes too insistent the company gets rid of him by transferring him to another section where he is not known and not so popular and the transfer eliminates him from running as committeeman. To show how little the girls and women are considered the company shop committee does not have a single women member. The workers consider this committee a joke. When the elections are held, Andy Gump and Barney Google always receive a large numbers of votes. Yes, it is some joke.

If the workers should finally be forced to strike in order to better their conditions which are continually becoming worse they will be confronted with a scab agency which the company has carefully and cleverly built up. These agencies are as follows:

1. After a worker has slaved for twenty years the company considers him a man worthy of special consideration so they give him a gold button to advertise the company and two weeks vacation with pay every summer. A worker who is able to work, avoid accidents, ill health and is physically able to work ought to be given a one third share in the company and a monument put up in his honor. Twenty year veterans are not sufficiently numerous so the company established a ten year veteran association and these worthy men are given one week's vacation with pay. How considerate!

Join the trade union and have a union of your own that will fight your battles. Only a union built and controlled by the workers will fight for them. Down with company unions!

Join the party of the workers! Join the Workers Party!

Demand equal pay for young workers for equal work!

Demand a 20% increase in pay!

Demand the abolition of the speed up system!

Demand equal pay for equal work for women and girls!

Demand the eight hour day and five day week!

For further information write to the Young Workers League, 805

of the company! These veterans are continually salved or psychologized about their loyalty and are given lots of praise but no money—only praise, which is cheap. Now after getting their minds in such shape that these workers believe they have a large share in the company, which is a large share of praise, the Westinghouse hopes to have these men as potential scabs if a strike should occur.

2. The firemen's organization, the Westinghouse Club, the Valley League Girls Club, Westinghouse Tech, the Factory Clerks Association, etc., are the fields of company propaganda, preaching the "virtues" of the company. In passing let it be noted that the employees pay for these institutions while the company lays claim to their financial support.

"Relief."

Another example of the company's kindness to the workers is the "relief" department. The workers are assessed \$1.25 or more each month to pay for this fraud. If a worker is sick, there is no diagnosis. It is merely asked what is wrong with him and he is given either red, white, or blue pills. They are very patriotic even with pills. Accidents are so frequent that the relief department has developed into a good-sized hospital.

The condition of the young workers are worst of all. He comes into the shop without a trade or experience and he is given starvation wages and night work. If he has some one at home to help him he can get a job as an apprentice where for four years he works for practically nothing while he does the same work as the older men.

The Westinghouse works on the theory that the workers are dishonest and cannot be trusted so they have a police force, both uniformed and in plain clothes which has regular "beats" to patrol the shop. This force is larger than some fair sized cities have.

In view of the above facts the Young Workers League is rallying the youth of the Westinghouse to fight these conditions and improve them. Young workers: join the Young Workers League to better yourself and your fellow workers.

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James St., N. S. Pittsburgh, Pa. or join the Young Workers League which meets every first and third Thursday each month in Workers Home, Corner Electric

and North Ave., East Pittsburgh. Further exposures of conditions in the Westinghouse will be published in the Young Worker in the next issue.

THE N. E. C. STATEMENT—THE COMMUNIST POSITION

By John Williamson.

In looking over the statement of Comrade Kaplan, as the minority of the national executive committee, it is interesting to note that the entire first part of the document, that dealing with the organizational tasks, is word for word, idea by idea, an almost exact replica of the statement of the majority of the committee. With the exception of a few cheap slurs, misrepresentations, half-truths, insinuation and personal attacks here and there, the Kaplan statement is a plain admission that the statement of the N. E. C. is correct.

I do not intend in this article to deal with these half-truths and personal slanders, but to reiterate one fact. That is, that the Y. C. I. has time and time over expressed its complete confidence in the present N. E. C. and stated specifically that it may have been hesitant (as we ourselves point out our errors and limitations) the N. E. C. has at all times carried no effect and with successes, even prior to the last Y. C. I. congress, the Y. C. I. line of action (see Y. C. I. decision, first and second paragraph).

In the recent letter to the New York D. E. C. it is very plain that here again we find the Y. C. I. supporting wholeheartedly the N. E. C. leadership against the actions of the majority of the New York D. E. C. led by Kaplan. Any attempts at slurring the N. E. C. in respect to the work it has accomplished had better not come from these comrades.

The N. E. C., in its official statement, criticizes the activities of the entire league in an objective manner and at no place is there any attempt made to create or further factionalism. It is unfortunate that Comrade Kaplan's statement does not carry out the same idea, but instead, continues his past factionalism.

It is in the political phase of our work that the fundamental divergence between the two viewpoints is to be found. The first striking observation we make is that Comrade Kaplan has a different viewpoint from that expressed in the Lovestone-Ruthenberg thesis of the party and also their adherents in the party press. Through Kaplan's entire document he speaks only of the farmer-labor slogan; the minority, however, do not limit themselves to the slogan alone, but advocate the building of a "class farmer-labor party."

Another outstanding feature of the Kaplan document is the limited space devoted to the immediate issue of future party policy. Much of the political statement deals with past actions of the C. E. C. This would lead one to believe that Comrade Kaplan has no arguments to advance on behalf of the objective conditions are not ripe for such a thing. This is quite true. The minority are bankrupt and cannot produce the slightest evidence that there is a mass sentiment or demand for a "class farmer-labor party." One cannot merely limit oneself to the document of Kaplan. We must follow closely the entire party discussion, and what do we find to be the outstanding feature of the discussion?

1. The minority (Kaplan) believes that if we desert the farmer-labor party on the political field, we have deserted the united front on the political field.

2. The minority (Kaplan) believes that we can win the masses away

from the leadership of LaFollette only thru raising the slogan of the "class farmer-labor party."

It is my firm belief that this conception of the united front is a right wing deviation. We know that the united front is applied on the basis of vital every-day issues arising out of the class struggle around which we can mobilize the workers in action against the capitalist class. Thru these united front tactics on the political and industrial field we become the recognized leaders of the proletarian masses and win the most militant elements into our Communist movement. The C. E. C. (majority) thesis very definitely upholds the correctness of the united front tactic and proposes, in conducting our future struggles to utilize the united front on the basis of vital issues on both the political and industrial fields (child labor, against injunctions or use of troops drives, reduction in wages, against the Dawes' plan, building of shop councils, unemployment councils, etc.) Upon these issues which are vital issues (not abstract farmer-laborism) which affect the lives of the worker, we will be able to carry out the united front tactic as it is understood by the Comintern and Y. C. I. The farmer-labor slogan is no longer a vital slogan because our experience and the existing conditions have proved this concretely to us. If the masses were interested in a farmer-labor party (massy, jazzy or classy) why did they not rally to our banner on June 17? Is it not a fact that LaFollette swallowed up this sentiment and still holds it today. NO ONE—NOT EVEN COMRADE KAPLAN CAN DENY THIS.

If the intensification of the class struggle demands only a farmer-labor party today (a wonderful Marxist conception, I must say) why did Comrades Ruthenberg, Gitlow and Bedacht vote on July 8, to enter the campaign on our own Communist ticket? Pray, does the intensification of the class struggle jump up and down so rapidly as this would make us believe? No, comrades, on July 8, these comrades sensed the correct political situation in America—today, for reasons best known to themselves, they support Lovestone, the leader of the minority.

We can win these masses who are under the influence of LaFollette away from him only by carrying on our future activity thru the utilization of the united front tactic on the basis of vital every-day issues on the political and industrial field and thus exposing the true capitalist nature of LaFolletteism, and disillusioning the masses who today support him under the illusion that he is the leader of the farmer-labor movement, and rally them to our own organization.

This, comrades, is the correct Bolshevik and Comintern line to support. The statement of the N. E. C. is absolutely hewing true to the correct Communist position of the C. I. and the Y. C. I. No divergence, even if only an inch, can be tolerated from this correct line. No move to build another political party under the name of farmer-labor, but in reality a substitute for the W. P., composed only of ourselves, can be tolerated. The position of the N. E. C. is the true Communist position. Let the membership of the Y. W. L. adhere to this strictly and they will be conducting themselves in the spirit which permeates the entire Communist youth movement of the world against any deviations, whether to the right or left.

Tasks of Young Workers League

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